

11 a microprocessor coupled to the receiver, the received signal strength  
12 indicator circuit, the signal quality indicator circuit, and the decoder circuit;  
13 wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize and de-energize the  
14 receiver circuit; determine the presence of a carrier with a carrier detect false  
15 rate, based, at least in part, on the power in the channel, and to determine an  
16 acceptable signal quality with a signal quality false rate, based, at least in part,  
17 on an output of the signal quality indicator circuit.

1 9. (New) The battery-powered radio of Claim 8, wherein the microprocessor is  
2 operable to energize the receiver circuit for a first period of time, and, if the  
3 carrier is determined to be present, to then maintain the receiver in the energized  
4 state until a determination is made as to whether acceptable signal quality has  
5 been obtained.

1 10. (New) The battery-powered radio of Claim 9, wherein the microprocessor is  
2 operable to de-energize the receiver circuit if the carrier is determined to not be  
3 present, without performing a signal quality determination.

1 11. (New) The battery-powered radio of Claim 10, further comprising:  
2 a metering unit coupled to the microprocessor;  
3 an encoder circuit coupled to the microprocessor; and  
4 a radio transmitter circuit coupled to the encoder circuit.